up to investigate Narora fire incident of 31-3-93—one by the Nuclear Power Corporation and the other by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board—and they have both identified the same initiating event viz. the turbine blade failure, as the cause of the fire. The Narora Unit-I affected by the fire is being rehabilitated keeping in view the recommendations of the Committees. To prevent recurrence of such fires the Low Pressure Turbine Generators of the other Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors operating in the country are also being inspected one by one to ensure that the turbine blades are in good shape and to effect any improvements that may be necessary. The First Unit of Madras Atomic Power Station will be taken up first for such inspection which may take 3 to 4 weeks. The Second Unit of Madras and the First Unit of Kakrapar Atomic Power Stations shall be taken up later based on the results of the Madras Atomic Power Station-I inspection.

Capacity Utilisation in Fertilizer Plants

451. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the capacity utilisation in fertilizer plants, separately for public sector, private sector and co-operative sector during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for low capacity utilisation in the Public Sector Plants; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The details of the capacity utilisation of public, co-operative and private sector fertilizer plants separately during the last three years are given below:

(Capacity utilisation %)

Nutrient/Sector	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Nitrogen			
(i) Public	66.3	69.0	69.1
(ii) Co-operative	112.4	112.2	111.3
(iii) Private	105.0	108.8	106.7
Phosphates			
(i) Public	62.4	92.4	82.9
(ii) Co-operative	75.4	113.2	99.7
(iii) Private	80.3	89.5	78.6

(b) The capacity utilisation in the public sector plants, particularly in the nitrogenous plants, has been comparatively low mainly due to low production in the plants of two sick companies, namely the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), on account of design deficiencies, ageing of the plants, power problems, equipment breakdowns, liquidity problem etc. Besides, the coal based technology tried for the first time in two of the plants of FCI has not been successful. Shortage of raw materials also affected the performance of some of the plants.

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken are:

(i) Captive power plants have been installed in all the units of HFC and Talcher unit of FCI;

(ii) Assistance is being provided in arranging raw materials; and

(iii) Financial assistance is also being provided for replacement/renewal of problematic equipments in the plants of the sick companies.

DAP Industry

452. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer industry is on the verge of closure after decanalisation of imports have become cheaper; and

(b) if so, the measure Government propose to take to save the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Due to increased Rupee cost of imported raw materials following unification of exchange rate, which increased their cost of production, as also due to low price of imported DAP, six out of ten DAP units in the country had suspended production from March, 1993 onwards. However, four such units have since resumed production.

(b) Government of India has recently announced a concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne on the sale of indigenous DAP to the farmers. This has enabled the DAP units to resume production.